

FIRE PROTECTION POLICY BOARD

Regular Meeting February 23, 2005 General Administration Building Olympia, WA

Board Members Present: Chair Sharon Colby, Jim Broman, TJ Nedrow, Jennifer Gregerson, Janet Paulson, Buck Lane and Joe Coultman

Board Members Absent: Mark Kahley

WSP Staff Present: State Fire Marshal Samuel Pierre, Steve Kalmbach, Anjela Foster, Mike Matlick and Ellen Tombleson

Committee Representatives: Eric Quitsland

OPENING

Sharon opened the meeting at approximately 9:20, and introduced Chief John Batiste, who was sworn in as Chief of the Washington State Patrol on February 14, 2005. Chief Batiste expressed his appreciation for the work of the Fire Protection Policy Board. He further advised he will be a champion of their issues and concerns, and asked that they in turn do the same for him. He looks forward to working collectively and collaboratively with the Board on issues of importance to the fire service. Chief Batiste advised that he will be reviewing all of the RCWs relating to the Board's oversight to gain a good understanding of their responsibility relating to fire services. He will also be taking a close look at the budget needs of the Fire Training Academy, as dealing with the needs of the facility will be a high priority.

Following introductions, the minutes of the January 26, 2005 Work Session were approved as submitted.

REPORTS

State Fire Marshal Report

State Fire Marshal Samuel Pierre introduced Mike Matlick, who was hired in February as the Fire Training Academy Administrator. Mike provided an overview of his background, which includes 30 years with the Washington State Patrol. While Mike was a Captain with the WSP, he was appointed as the Acting State Fire Marshal in 1997-98, while the permanent hiring of this position was in process. He also has an extensive background in training, as he also was the Administrator of the WSP Training Academy. Mike shared that it is his goal to make the Fire Training Facility a premier facility. He is working to develop a consensus amongst the fire service that identifies what they want out of their State Fire Training Academy, and is moving forward to develop a legislative package for the 2007-09 biennium. Mike stressed the importance of having the fire service come together to be successful in passing legislation.

Sammy introduced Assistant State Fire Marshal Steve Kalmbach, who advised that the Bureau is currently preparing for site visit (March 11-13) from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress for re-accreditation of the Fire Training Academy.

Steve also manages the Hazmat/Homeland Security programs within the Bureau. Sammy advised that he has tasked Steve with presenting a PowerPoint presentation at the April Policy Board meeting detailing the Homeland Security Program.

Sammy introduced Acting Assistant State Fire Marshal Anjela Foster who manages the ERID and IDEA. Anjela advised that her staff is currently compiling NFIRS data for the 2004 Annual Report. March 31, 2005 has been identified as the deadline for fire agencies to report their data in order to be included in the report. Anjela pointed out that although there are 347 out of the states 536 fire departments who have reported, this actually represents 90% of the state's population. It is anticipated that the Annual Report will be completed and available in July.

Anjela also provided a legislative overview, and advised that HB 1945, which broadens the use of the sprinkler fund to allow a proactive approach to education on defective sprinkler heads, located in primarily in single and multi-family residences, appears to be moving along well, as there is no controversy, or known opposition associated with this bill.

Sammy provided an overview on the Bureau's organizational chart, highlighting the currently vacant positions. Sammy commended his Executive Staff in their efforts of taking on more responsibility to cover the workload resulting from the vacant positions. Sammy shared that it is his vision to reduce the fire fatality rate in the state of Washington. Sammy advised that year to date, there have already been 11 fire fatalities. In response to Jim Broman's question, as to whether there are any common themes, geographically, or urban vs. rural that are being seen in the fire fatalities, Anjela advised that statistically, when looking at where the fire fatalities occur, there seems to be a social-economic issue in where the fatalities occur. There have been a number of fire fatalities occurring in trailers (not mobile homes) that are being used as residences. Also the majority of fire fatalities are occurring in homes that do not have smoke detectors, or have non-working detectors (due to not replacing the batteries or being installed improperly). Traditionally, Pierce County has been the leader in where the majority of fire fatalities occur. Jim stressed that it is important to know the target in order to be able to zero in on those at risk. Anjela advised that smoking fires tend to be the leading cause.

Sammy encouraged the Board to forward him any ideas they have in developing solutions for combating fire fatalities.

Basic Firefighter Training Program

Steve Kalmbach provided an overview of program funds, highlighting the percentage of decrease from December 2004 to January 2005, and explained that this decrease was anticipated and is due to the number of contracts that closed out in December. He also called attention to a significant increase in the comparison of the last 12 months versus the prior 12 months. Steve advised that the increase is a result of effective marketing.

TJ Nedrow advised that he would like specific statistics reflecting the number of firefighters that have been trained and the number of fire departments/districts that are engaged in the program. Jim Broman requested information detailing the encumbrances vs. reimbursement requests, to provide information on the percentage of those who sign up, but do not complete the program in order to determine why they aren't completing the program. Sharon expressed that she would be interested in knowing how many of the estimated 25,000 firefighters in the state have had basic firefighter training.

Training Committee –

Eric Quitsland, Chair of the FPPB's Training and Education Committee distributed copies of the Committee's Strategic Plan. The Committee views their Strategic Plan as a living document. Eric advised that the Committee feels their primary role is to help defragment training within the state's training system. Eric advised that they have broken out their membership between committee membership and ex-officio membership. Eric reported that at their past workshop the Committee discussed adding two Washington State Association of Fire Marshals representatives to their Committee. As the Committee fully supported the addition of these representatives, Eric has contacted WASFM President David Lynam to obtain the names of the representatives they will be appointing to the Committee. In further review of the membership, Eric advised that they have received a resignation from one on the Members at Large, and are working to find a replacement, they have also added two positions from Metro Fire Departments, and one position from the Washington State Council of Firefighters, as approved by the FPPB at their previous meeting. Eric advised that the Committee has chosen to operate in a consensus mode.

Motion: Jim Broman moved and Joe Coultman seconded to add up to two positions, to be appointed by the State Fire Marshal, to the Committee to serve as consensus members of the Committee.

Motion passes unanimously.

Eric advised that the Committee will be meeting again on March 17, and that they are attempting to continue to hold their meetings the week prior to FPPB meetings. Following discussion on changing the words in the Committee's Strategy Statements from "to adopt" to "recommend for adoption." Eric stressed the fact that the Committee clearly understands that their role is in an advisory capacity to the Fire Protection Policy Board.

Motion: Jim Broman moved and TJ Nedrow seconded to endorse the February 16, 2005 version of the Strategic Plan developed by the Fire Protection Policy Board's Fire Service Training and Education Advisory Committee.

Motion passes unanimously.

Following discussion on the question if financial support to the Committee was going to continue to exist, Jim stated that he is supportive of financial support being provided to the Committee, but did point out that the State Fire Defense Committee does not receive financial support. He recommended having a specific discussion on this issue at a later date.

Sammy suggested that a budget be developed, specific to travel costs for Boards and Committees, to ensure that there is adequate funding available. Jim suggested that staff research travel expense reimbursement costs for both the Training Committee and the State Fire Defense Committee, to be reviewed at the April Work Session, for developing a recommendation at the May meeting.

State Fire Defense Committee

Sharon advised that Tom McDowell was not able to attend this morning's meeting, but did forward a list of the progress and active issues of the State Fire Defense Committee. The list indicated that "Two issues were presented for further study and action of necessary. Future additions/amendments to the Plan could come from the discussion on these issues:

- Utilization of non-fire public safety agency resources to fill critical positions when fire agency resources are insufficient to meet the need
- Exploring wording to address conflict of interest scenarios."

Jim advised he would be interested in understanding the scope of what is meant with the reference to "conflict of interest," and advised he would like to gain an understanding of the nature of the problem. Following discussion on what "non-fire public safety agency resources" may mean, it was agreed that this could refer to resources from public works, law enforcement, finance, vehicle inspectors, etc. It was also agreed that further detail be requested to address this issue.

In response to Sharon's question of where the Mobilization Plan is printed, Steve advised that it is printed through the State's Department of Printing. In response to Sharon's request that when the Mobilization Plan is printed, that she would like to ensure that the FPPB is mentioned on the cover, Steve advised that he will check on the printing status, as the Plan was already approved and has had final edits, it may already be printed.

E-911 Committee

Joe Coultman advised that due to email problems he is experiencing, he has not received the schedules or information from the E-911 Committee. He advised that he will provide a detailed report via email, and advised that all email be sent to him should be directed to:
jcoultman@comcast.net

State Interoperability Executive Committee

Jim Broman advised that the SIEC is moving forward on schedule, and the comprehensive survey of wireless communication systems for state agencies and local governments has been completed. There is a Technology Implementation Plan due in June. The next meeting of the SIEC is scheduled for February 24, 2005. Due to Chief Lowell Porter's retirement, who was the former Chair of the SIEC, Jim Broman will serve as Chair until Chief John Batiste is appointed to the Committee.

Other Business

Jim advised that he appreciated the format used for providing the State Fire Marshal's report to the FPPB, and advised that he would be very interested in receiving a report and on the Standards and Accreditation Unit, detailing the current position standards that we have certifications for, and what is the plan to expand the certifications. SFM Pierre advised that at each Fire Protection Policy Board meeting, he intends to have a staff member provide a 15 minute update on the programs that they manage. The first program overview will presented at the April 27 Work Session on the Homeland Security Program, and could be followed by a presentation on the Standards and Accreditation Program at meeting in the near future.

Old Business

Volunteer FF Death Benefit - Dan Johnson provided information on the Volunteer Firefighter Death Benefit. This statute, which was passed in the 2003 legislative session allows for people who are not enrolled in a retirement program to receive a \$150,000 benefit, in addition to the \$3,800 death benefit that is paid from the Dept. of Labor and Industries.

Logo - The Board expressed that they are very pleased with the logo that Jennifer developed and feel it will be of great benefit to be used in gaining recognition for the Board. In discussion it was agreed that the logo could be used on business cards, correspondence, web sites and publications. Sammy advised that he would have staff research agency guidelines regarding the use of logos.

Annual Report- Jennifer advised that she is currently working on the 2004 FPPB highlights for the annual report, and will have them available for review at the next meeting.

State Fire Marshal Job Description - Tabled

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45

Next Work Session:

April 27– 9:00
General Administration Building
WSP HQ Conference Room

Approved:

Sharon Colby, FPPB Chair (Date)